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## Restaurant mixup strikes Baptist leader's wife

**SALT LAKE CITY (BP and local reports)** — Jan Harding remains hospitalized indefinitely in Salt Lake City with ulcerated lye burns down the upper third of her esophagus after a chemical mix-up at a restaurant, but no longer faces the life-and-death struggle she initially encountered, her husband said.

Jim Harding, Jan's husband

and former executive director of the Utah/Idaho Southern Baptist Convention from 1995-2000, had no words of bitterness despite a number of media questions to elicit such a response during at August 21 press conference.

"I'm not angry," Jim Harding said at least twice. "I'm sad. We're sad. We're sad for Dickey's, for our family, for everybody involved."



JAN HARDING

JIM HARDING

Jan Harding was seriously injured at a Dickey's barbecue restaurant in the Salt Lake City area when she took a sip of sweet tea on Aug. 10. The tea mistakenly contained caustic lye, which is used for cleaning the barbecue restaurant's cooking equipment. "God's got us. He's got us," said Jim Harding, now a professor at the Utah extension center

of Golden Gate Seminary who regularly serves as an interim pastor. "We have absolute confidence in our God."

The Hardings were at the national dining chain's restaurant waiting for longtime friends and regular Sunday dining

see MIXUP on p. 9

## SOUTHERN BAPTIST World Hunger FUNDS

## World Hunger Sunday to be observed Oct. 12

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — With World Hunger Sunday on Oct. 12 approaching, churches and other groups who want to engage the global hunger crisis have a variety of free and inexpensive resources available to them.

Global Hunger Relief (GHR), the new cooperative initiative of Southern Baptist hunger ministries, offers a range of resources on its website, [globalhungerrelief.com](http://globalhungerrelief.com). Visitors will find a range of free promotional resources available, from bulletin inserts and children's coloring pages to videos and the long-popular soup can labels.

Access to art files useful in creating customized promotional items and a GHR display booth also are available.

The GHR website also prominently promotes a Hunger Happens Everywhere campaign ([helpghr.org/now](http://helpghr.org/now)) that helps churches engage hunger needs both globally and locally through the North American Mission Board (NAMB) LoveLoud backpack missions emphasis ([namb.net/backpacks](http://namb.net/backpacks)) and a focus on Syria ([gobgr.org/syria](http://gobgr.org/syria)), promoted in partnership by the International Mission Board (IMB) and Baptist Global Response (BGR).

Several of the national GHR partners also offer resources on their websites:

■ The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) of the Southern Baptist Convention, at [erlc.com/hunger](http://erlc.com/hunger), offers two new resources: a video from ERLC President Russell Moore that illustrates the biblical admonition to love your neighbor as yourself with an anecdote from the popular TV sitcom Parks and Recreation, and a substantive issue analysis by Daniel J. Hurst, ERLC presidential intern, on biblical principles undergirding the Christian responsibility to care for hungry people.

■ NAMB ([namb.net/hunger-relief](http://namb.net/hunger-relief)) provides helpful items like fundraising ideas, testimonials about the impact of hunger giving, and background material for sermon preparation. Visitors also will find practical resources like Beginning a Hunger Ministry and a one-hour witnessing workshop for hunger ministry workers.

■ The International Mission Board (IMB) website, at [imb.org](http://imb.org), houses literally hundreds of resources on world hunger. Visitors can download bulletin inserts and videos, photos and stories from all over the world.

One new item is a simple packet that helps

## Islamist terrorism grows more vicious in regions of battle-weary Nigeria

**GWOZA, Nigeria (BP)** — The death toll from Boko Haram's takeover of the predominantly Christian town of Gwoza is nearly 1,000, not the 100 included in many reports, Nigerian relations expert Adeniyi Ojutiku told Baptist Press.

The Nigerian military abandoned their weapons and fled Gwoza as Boko Haram attacked on Aug. 6, burning government buildings, killing residents, and taking hostages. Some residents managed to flee to the mountains bordering Cameroon and are without food or water. Others made it 85 miles north to Maiduguri, Associated French Press (AFP) and others reported.

News surfaced Aug. 15 of a separate attack Aug. 10 on the remote village of Doron Baga in northeastern Nigeria, where Boko Haram kidnapped dozens of boys and men, leaving women, girls, and young children abandoned there.

Boko Haram has escalated its attacks to a new level, capturing towns and hoisting Boko Haram flags instead of killing residents and fleeing, Ojutiku said. He compared them to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). As such, a concerted global effort is needed to conquer the rebels, he said.

Weeks before taking over Gwoza, Boko Haram viciously seized Damboa and killed many in the town 22 miles north of Chibok, the site of the April kidnapping of 300 school girls, approximately 223 of which remain missing. Reports number those displaced at more than 15,000, but the number of deaths had not been reported.

"This is a new dimension in this crisis, a completely new dimension," Ojutiku said. "Now

they are following the strategy of ISIS. They attack, they occupy, they hold the town. Now that they have started adopting ISIS methodology, they should be receiving the type of treatment that ISIS is receiving."

Based on a report Ojutiku received on Aug. 13 from a trusted colleague who lives in Gwoza, 997 had been killed and others had been taken hostage. Previous reports were based on information gathered Aug. 6, the day of the attack, when survivors were forced to flee the city of between 50,000 and 70,000 people.

The terrorists seized a number of residents as hostages and killed nine hundred and seven, an eye

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see HUNGER on p. 11



## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### The annual report

Good evening. To the members in good standing of the National Archaeological Society in the year 6014, I am pleased to present the annual report on the society's longstanding, major archaeological project. As you are aware, through your generous funding over many years we have been able to unearth large sections of what appear to be settlements at least 4,000 years old in the densely-forested area east of the lower part of the waterway known in that era as the Mississippi River. There is currently no population of humans.

Our findings over the past twelve months have been nothing less than extraordinary, and seem to point to an overt religiosity among the natives of the area. An industrious people, much of their free time appears to have been spent in worship along with tens of thousands of their cohorts. That is the only conclusion at which we can arrive, when the massive investments in time and money that this religiosity consumed over a lengthy period are studied.

For example, large gathering places in central locations are surrounded by hundreds of similar but smaller gathering places, radiating away from the large facilities in all directions over hundreds of miles. All have the same basic architecture, however. The large ones are constructed with the predominant building material of the time, concrete. Some of the smaller sites are also concrete, but were mostly built with another favorite construction material of the 21st century, metals of different types.

Some of the larger churches were once enclosed, with architecturally-impressive free span roofs. This must have been enormously expensive, even in light of the era's great prosperity that our previous studies have confirmed. Box-shaped areas, some of which appear to have been added at later times, must have housed socially prominent members of the community and separated them from common people.

There also seem to be food pits in each structure, along with large areas that would have allowed people to quickly relieve themselves and return to the worship

service. It is our observation that these worship centers, when in active use, were intended to house, feed, and otherwise take care of the needs of many worshippers over an extended period of time.

The importance of these churches in the society of that time cannot be underestimated, as the quality of construction is still apparent after 4,000 years. Very few of our modern structures will last that long. In addition, these people laid down impressive roadways to their houses of worship, as evidenced by the astronomical amounts of concrete and bitumen dedicated to help move large numbers of people into and out of these stadium areas.

What remains of the structures indicates that each seat was focused toward a wide central area, which varied from structure to structure. The structure responded with a dome that did whatever action the center. The dome again apparently intended to facilitate rapid ingress and egress so as not to miss any part of the worship service.

Thus, our conclusion that these impressive structures were used for religious purposes. What else could be as important to a culture? We cannot be certain of that purpose, however. Who or what they were worshipping so fervently is not clear. We have not been able to identify the deity or deities involved. There are a few odd clues here and there, but they apparently did not believe deeply enough in their worship to leave any record of it.

It is obvious that whatever they did in these glorious structures didn't amount to much over time, and doesn't seem to have had any lasting effect. It may have been no more than a distraction to them, and their worship seems to have simply faded away. One has to pause and contemplate what other, more important societal matters were neglected to feed this obsessive worship system of theirs, and what their final fate as a civilization truly was.

We will likely never know. I thank the members of the society for their time.

## Adam's transgression

On Aug. 9, Michael Brown, an unarmed 18-year-old African American, was shot six times by Darren Wilson, a white Ferguson, Mo., police officer. Brown's family has called for justice in his shooting while urging residents of Ferguson to abstain from violence, but many African Americans and some whites have taken their anger to the city's streets in protest.

As an African American Christian, my first reaction to this sad story of a young man's life cut short consists of anger and sadness as yet another African American family grieves the death of a son. However, I am not surprised by this tragic event or the subsequent events in the aftermath of Brown's shooting and death. The reason is simple: Adam's transgression has enduring effects on the human race to the present day.

In Genesis 2:17, God warned of a universal curse of judgment if Adam disobeyed His command in the Garden of Eden. As soon as Adam disobeyed, the curse of sin and death fell upon all of creation (Genesis 3:14-19; Romans 5:12). Once sin's lethal fangs sank its teeth into God's good creation through Adam's transgression, the entire creation became subject to sin's tyrannical power. Sin first manifested its malevolent bent toward violence when Adam's son Cain murdered his brother Abel (Genesis 4:1-8).

Creation's futility stemming from Adam's transgression is now being manifested in Ferguson, just as Adam's transgression manifested itself in Cain's murder of his brother. Unfortunately, creation will continue to be subject to the power of sin and death until God emancipates it from its current futility (Romans 8:19-25).

The problem in Ferguson is not merely an African American problem, nor is it uniquely an American problem. Fundamentally it is a spiritual problem—that is, a sin problem. Adam's transgression has created death within every human heart, and every human heart regardless of race rebels against God and against his fellow man (Genesis 3:8-9; Romans 3:9-18).

The Bible presents the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the solution to the enduring effects of Adam's transgression on humans and their relationships, including race relations (Galatians 2:11-21; Ephesians 2:11-22). God offered His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross and to resurrect from the dead to reverse the universal curse of Adam's transgression and to reconcile sinners both to Himself and to one another (John 3:16; Romans 3:21-26, 5:6-21; Ephesians 2:11-22).



## Guest opinion

with Jarvis J. Williams

The Gospel teaches that the only way to defeat sin's weapon of violence and to reconcile race relations in places like Ferguson is with the blood-bought, resurrection-empowered, and reconciliatory Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. It proclaims a message of hope to individuals of all races even during this dark time in American history.

No human or natural effort or device will be able to stop these enduring effects of Adam's transgression—neither marches nor protests, neither laws nor policies, neither arrests nor police brutality, neither tear gas nor guns, neither programs nor propaganda, and neither campaigns nor inspiring speeches from famous leaders.

Only the Gospel of Jesus Christ can cleanse the heart of racism. Only the Gospel of Jesus Christ can create love where there is hate. Only the Gospel of Jesus Christ can once and for all end the transgression that continues to show its ugly face in violence facing African Americans in Ferguson and elsewhere.

Christians who want to see racial tensions subside must believe, proclaim, and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They must allow it to move them to Gospel-action in the church and in society.

Christ-followers must preach the biblical Gospel that centers on the death and resurrection of the Messiah who died on the cross to save sinners from every tongue, tribe, people and nation. Christians must become engaged in the various racial problems that face their communities, acting out the Gospel in their churches and in society.

Though we cannot put to death the enduring effects of Adam's transgression we can create pockets of reconciliation and oases of hope for all who come to God through faith in Jesus Christ, until that Day when Jesus will make all things new.

Williams is associate professor of New Testament interpretation at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for length and style.

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## WORLD NEWS

# Hindu extremists move to hinder Christian activities

**NEW DELHI, India (BP)** — Christian minorities in central India face a new threat as Hindu extremists in more than a dozen village councils have passed resolutions imposing restrictions on religions other than Hinduism.

The laws, passed under the guise of stopping false conversions, make Christian prayer, services, and "propaganda" illegal, World Watch Monitor reported. The Bastar district president of the World Hindu Council, Suresh Yadav, told The Times of India that more than 50 village councils have banned all non-Hindu missionaries.

The state government of Chhattisgarh, where the tribal Bastar villages are located, has not intervened to strike down the rules but plans to monitor developments, according to the Times. Chhattisgarh Christian Forum president Arun Pannalal told the newspaper that village councils were wrong to think they could pass resolutions that override constitutional protections.

Pannalal noted that Article 25 of India's constitution guarantees freedom of religion for all.

Church leaders said the resolutions have already harmed Christians, and the leaders called for higher government officials to overturn them.

"In some places, the passing of the resolution has been followed by attacks on pastors and pulling down of village churches," Aneesh Andrews, Methodist district superintendent for the region, told World Watch Monitor. He called the restrictions a "ploy to harass Christians" and explained that in some villages Christians have been denied food or access to water. In other towns, Christians have been ordered to leave.

Indian Christian groups urged government officials in Chhattisgarh state to revoke the resolutions, according to Morning Star News.

"The government must reverse the decisions of these [villages] immediately to restore the confidence of the Christian community in the state, which is under considerable stress in recent days," Vijayesh Lal, national director of the Religious Liberty Commission of the Evangelical Fellowship of India, said.

Akhlesh Edgar, a community relations manager for Alliance Defending Freedom India, also condemned the actions to Morning Star. "These resolutions must be immediately withdrawn, and the state should take strict measures so that non-state actors are prevented from inciting violence."

While India's constitution declares that all religions are to be treated equally, persecution still exists and stems primarily from Hindutva, the ideology that equates being Indian with being Hindu and views other faiths as foreign. According to International Christian Concern, Hindu extremists have attacked Christians, discriminated against them, and used anti-forced conversion laws to have them arrested.

Christians and other minorities in India have been concerned that their plight will worsen as the result of a landslide victory in May elections by Narendra Modi, head of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party. The BJP also swept the parliamentary election in Chhattisgarh state, winning 10 out of 11 seats, according to The Indian Express.

Recent remarks by two BJP elected officials about a "Hindu nation" raised further alarm and stirred up controversy in the state assembly, where cooperation minister Dipak Dhavalikar said he is "confident" that "India will develop into a Hindu nation" under Modi's leadership.

Some legislators protested Dhavalikar's remarks with a walkout.

The government must reverse the decisions of these [villages] immediately to restore the confidence of the Christian community in the state, which is under considerable stress in recent days.

Vijayesh Lal

national director of the Religious Liberty Commission of the Evangelical Fellowship of India



**BARBAROUS** — A high-quality video anonymously posted to social media last week showed the beheading of American journalist James Foley by an ISIS jihadist, in retaliation for U.S. bombings directed against ISIS. A number of news reports indicate Western intelligence agencies have made strides in identifying the murderer in the video and the location of the crime. (BP uncredited photo)

## Moore: U.S. must commit to battle against ISIS terrorists

**WASHINGTON (BP)** — The United States possesses a distinctive duty in Iraq to combat the reign of terror by an Islamist army and needs discernment on how to do so.

Russell D. Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, offered his analysis two days after the videotaped beheading of American journalist James Foley by a member of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) was posted on social media.

America cannot take a hands-off approach, Moore said of terrorist violence and genocide in a country the United States helped liberate from dictator Saddam Hussein more than a decade ago.

"When it comes to the slaughter in Iraq, we cannot show moral indifference," Moore told Baptist Press in a written statement. "This is both a humanitarian catastrophe and a national security emergency, and nearly everyone agrees that America bears a special responsibility."

"Iraq War hawks will say it is because we failed to finish the job, and Iraq War doves will say it is because our action plunged the nation into chaos in a misguided war. This is an important debate to have, but not now. Instead, what is needed now are neither hawks, nor doves, but owls with the talons to fight injustice and the wisdom to know when to start, and when to stop."

Moore has previously endorsed strong action by the United States to eliminate the ISIS threat.

His comments came as ISIS

continued its efforts to establish a militant Islamic state encompassing Iraq and Syria. The terrorists have taken over significant portions of Iraq, where more than 4,400 U.S. service members died between 2003-2012.

The Sunni Muslim militants that largely make up ISIS have executed or driven from their homes many Christians, Yazidis, and others, especially in the northern part of the Middle Eastern country. ISIS also has threatened to directly attack the United States.

American airstrikes authorized by U.S. President Barack Obama against ISIS are continuing. U.S. jets and drones performed 14 strikes near the Mosul Dam, the Pentagon reported. The toll included six ISIS Humvees and two armed trucks.

The United States confirmed Aug. 18 that the Iraqi military had retaken the dam in northern Iraq after its capture by the terrorists. The U.S. has conducted 84 airstrikes since Obama authorized such military action Aug. 7.

"When it comes to the slaughter in Iraq, we cannot show moral indifference. This is both a humanitarian catastrophe and a national security emergency, and nearly everyone agrees that America bears a special responsibility."



Russell D. Moore

president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The President reacted to Foley's Aug. 19 beheading by condemning ISIS and promising the United States would do what is necessary to protect its citizens. He described Foley's killing as a violent act "that shocks the conscience of the entire world."

Describing ISIS as a "cancer," Obama said the terrorist group "speaks for no religion."

"No just God would stand for what they did yesterday, and for what they do every single day," the president said Aug. 20. ISIS "has no ideology of any value to human beings. Their ideology is bankrupt."

He added, "One thing we can all agree on is that a group like [ISIS] has no place in the 21st century."

Foley, 40, was a freelance journalist for GlobalPost and Agence France-Presse when he was taken captive nearly two years ago in Syria. ISIS initially demanded a ransom from Foley's family and GlobalPost of \$132.5 million, the online news site reported to The Wall Street Journal.

The recent death of Robin Williams put the discussion of suicide on the front page of every paper and in the conversation of almost everyone the next day, in fact, for days to follow. A celebrity – wealthy, adored, gifted – died at age 63 by his own actions. The first reports that came out said he died from asphyxiation, unable to breathe. Later we would find out that the asphyxiation was because he had hung himself with a belt. People who knew him and people like me, who never met him or watched many of his movies or knew much about his family, everyone began to chime in. Most of us were deeply saddened just to hear that he had died and many of us immediately began to think about his family and friends who are left behind with unending questions. He had had failed marriages, struggled with addictions, drinking and drugs, some said that he had financial problems and it was later told that he was struggling with the beginning stages of Parkinson's. Some or all of those things kind of fill in our understanding of why this tragedy may have happened.

Tom Brokaw, the newsman now commentator, had a piece on Robin and warned people who were chasing after wealth or fame to take note that the cost of having a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame was extremely expensive. But Robin Williams only allowed national or even international conversations about suicide to take place, for it exists with us as a society daily. During the discussion one news report said that in America there are over 1 million suicides annually. That means that by average there are about 3,000 a day every day, and I can tell you from personal experience and involvement from families, they come in all shapes and sizes, all levels of giftedness and intelligence, all areas of careers and social standing. They are moms and dads, lawyers and doctors, chicken farmers and school teachers, teenagers and retirees. Robin Williams himself commented concerning his dad that when Robin told his dad that he was going into acting, his dad told him that he needed to have a backup plan, another career in mind like welding. You wonder if Robin Williams had not become the actor, comedian, professional entertainer that he was and had gone into



## Suicide Sadness

welding, what would his life have been like and would it have ended the same way. There are no doubt welders who take their lives and it is also true that not all actors or actresses end their lives by suicide.

When someone in your circle of life and influence takes their life, immediately you may think *well, if I had just known*. Invariably, someone will say, "If we had just known, we could have done something." Well, maybe and maybe not. The reason I say that is because, well, two reasons. One, Robin Williams, like many people, gave off constant signals and awareness that he was dealing with devastating destructive issues. He had been in rehab. That helped with counseling and encouragement that no doubt had made a difference. The alarms going off about the needs in his life, whether they were personal, family, financial, or struggles with chemicals and depression, any and all of those things have been given some attention by some people, and he took his life. In an interview played during the aftermath of his death he was being asked about his addictions and his depression and the possibility that he had thought about ending his life, and in typical Robin Williams fashion he just took off into a dialogue with himself, telling that absolutely he had thought about it, and then the same side of him would point out all the good things and the positive things and the things that would cause him to want to live to the fullest, and he would push back

the dark side and life would win. But then at the end the other part of him won the discussion. He had been helped, but obviously not at that moment could anyone step in and make a difference.

The other reality that I would set before you and my own heart is the fact that everyone you know, regardless of who they are, what part they are in your family or in your circle of friends or work, they probably are dealing with some personal problems, deficiencies, unsolvable issues, that wear away at their spirit. You may think you know them well and you may not have a clue as to what they are dealing with, but in spite of the fact that you are unaware, it helps you understand that you need to care about people whether you know or you don't know. As it has often been pointed out, people who take their lives probably are not thinking clearly and they may not be feeling properly, but at some point, maybe every day, you come across one of those moments in your own life. Not that you are suicidal, but that you are struggling with the critical issues of life that seem to have no resolution.

Paul's word to the Ephesians in chapter 4, verse 32 is thought provoking and spiritually calling to us, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." How many people have been helped, encouraged, boosted over the emotional problem of the day because some tenderhearted, right-

spirited, God-used person lifted them up? No doubt there will be other suicides that we will hear about. There even may be some because of Robin Williams, not that he caused it but they become copycat followers – if he did it, I need to do it. But in light of all of that, here's the bottom line truth for your life and mine.

**Number one, God cares about you.** He knows everything about you, he knows all the difficulties you are facing and all the dilemmas that you wrestle with and he cares. Now don't be dismissive and say *well, if he cares so much, why doesn't he do something*. Well, he will and he can. Will he step in and just change everything like you want it to be? Probably not.

**Number two, it is a fact that all of us live alone.** One thoughtful commentator after Robin Williams' death said, "He was admired by millions and died alone." There is a sense in which we all live alone and we die alone except for the fact that God Himself is the only person who come into those alone moments of life. That's why the truth of Psalm 23 resonates with us so often, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me" (v. 4). God will go with you. Wherever you go and whatever you may be facing, he will come and he will help you trust him.

**And third, may I say, there are people around you today who care.** I know you can rationalize and think maybe they don't but they do. They care about you. They care about the needs in your life. They care, and many of them if you will let them not just barge in to tell you how to run your life but come alongside you and lift you up during a difficult time.

Even as I write this article, I am thinking about people that may very well be in that dark corner of life today where no sunshine ever comes and you wonder if there is any path that leads beyond where you are stuck. Even now, I am praying that the Lord will meet you there and that the light of his love, power and salvation will come and fill your heart.

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## BIBL i O C I P H E R

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Clue: E = R

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Ecclesiastes 5:7

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

## Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



## The Battle Still Rages

The haunting question for Christian ethicists and organizations like the Christian Action Commission is "Have we lost the culture war?" The answer you get is determined always by whom you ask. Perhaps a more intriguing question is, "How did we get where we are today?"

Noah Manskar, a young journalist, penned, in *The Tennesseean*, that "Southern Baptist Convention leaders know they have lost the culture war on same-sex marriage, but now they're turning their attention inside the church to get congregants to marry younger." It appears from reading the article that the research was quite limited and much of it is opinion. I do know there are thousands of evangelicals and Southern Baptists who have not surrendered to the LGBT demands. Even though the courts are declaring state bans on same-sex marriage as unconstitutional, the war is far from over.

We have one abortion clinic in Mississippi, and federal judges are telling us it cannot be closed due to the inconvenience it will cause women seeking to end the life of their child. The fact is, when the baby is dehumanized, the next step is to dehumanize every one else who is incapable of being self-caring and productive, not unlike the Nazi prison camps years ago. Even though our government continues to funnel money to abortionists, the pro-lifers have not surrendered and never will. The battle for life continues.

Murder, rape, and domestic violence are common fare for the nightly news. Rioting, looting and destruction of property are standard behavior every time a community becomes enraged over alleged police brutality. Drugs, pornography, and gambling can be found on most street corners. Immigration is a huge elephant in the



with Jimmy Porter

room and all it seems anyone wants to do is to enlarge the room. Approval ratings for the White House Congress are critically low due to their perceived ineffectiveness. Even though the battle is hard and tiring, the war is not over.

Have you ever been lost and confused? One Thanksgiving over 50 years ago, several of us went squirrel hunting in the Pearl River swamp. Our leader, Uncle J.T., knew the terrain like

the back of his hand, he thought. Clouds developed and he got turned around but he didn't know it, nor could he be convinced otherwise. As night set in we stumbled up on the Pearl River which would be easy to follow downstream to our parked vehicles. Uncle J.T. just knew we had been going downstream all along and were not lost. I never will forget his words as we made it to the banks of the Pearl, "Boys," he said, "the river is flowing the wrong way." Our culture is flowing the wrong way. The clouds are dark and the way seems to be lost but there is a way out.

George Barna, the research guru, recently hit a nerve. As a guest on American Family Radio, Barna explained that they had been working on a project where pastors (supposedly theologically conservative) were asked if the Bible was relevant in addressing the social, moral and political issues of today. Ninety percent of the respondents said the Bible spoke to all of these issues. When asked if they were teaching their people about what the Bible said about these issues, less than 10% said they did so. That means 90% plus of those surveyed are SILENT on issues affecting our culture.

These same pastors were asked what factors they believed determined the success of a church. The factors they sug-

gested were: attendance, giving, number of programs, number of staff, and square footage. Barna stated, "What I am suggesting is those pastors won't probably get involved in politics (issues) because it's very controversial. Controversy keeps people from being in the seats, controversy keeps people from giving money, and controversy keeps people from attending programs." **Christian News Network.**

Barna also declared, "It has been decades since even a sizable minority of pastors have bothered to educate and inform their congregations as to the Biblical principles relating to America's political, cultural and societal lives." Is it any wonder why we are lost in the swamp of cultural malaise and mired in a slough of despondency? My dear Christians, if God's people have ever needed to be on the front lines doing battle against evil and ungodliness, it is now. The battle is raging. We have not lost and will not lose. I have a Bible that has already declared a winner, and it is not the peddlers of ungodliness and unrighteousness. We must never surrender!

Porter serves as executive director-treasurer for the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. He can be contacted at 601-292-3332 or jporter@christianaction.com.

Randy Howell  
2014 Bassmaster Champion

North Greenwood Baptist  
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## Revivals & Homecomings

► Siloam Church, Siloam Community: Homecoming, Aug. 31; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Tommy May, speaker; Stillwaters and Hilmer Bynum, music; Raymond Jeffcoat, pastor.  
► Walnut Church, Walnut Revival, Mondays in September, 7 p.m. nightly; speakers - Brad Hill, Sept. 1; Donald Anderson, Sept. 8; Tim Bass, Sept. 15; Jack

Bennett, Sept. 22; Ronald Meeks, Sept. 29.

► Clear Springs Church, Smith County: 100th anniversary, June 8; activities included a history of the church, sharing of photographs, lunch, and singing and fellowship afterwards featuring The Leaf River, Kindred Spirit Singers, and Richard Simmons on the harmonica.

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## Just for the Record



**LIBERTY HILL CHURCH, POPE**, held a note burning for their fellowship building Aug. 10. Shown are pastor Derrick Simmons and Chad Williams.

### In other Church News:

➤ **Enon Church, Grenada**, is hosting a gospel singing featuring Magnolia Gospel Aug. 30, 6 p.m.

➤ **Becker Church, Becker**, is hosting a 5th Sunday singing featuring Unity Four Aug. 31, 5 p.m., followed by fellowship.

➤ **Grandview Church, Pearl**, is hosting Shelly Overby Traxler in concert Aug. 31, 6:30 p.m. Love offering.

➤ **Gracewood Church, Southaven**, is hosting Paid in Full Aug. 31, 6 p.m., followed by an ice cream fellowship.



**FIRST CHURCH, BOYLE**, baptized seven Aug. 17. Shown are Abby Hamilton, Emma Claire Tanner, Katelyn Hill, Taylor Barr, Ryan Watson, Larson Ingram, and Matthew Kline.



**FIRST CHURCH, BRANDON**, is sponsoring an Explorers Bible Study on the book of Genesis, beginning Sept. 2. For information, call (601) 919-0991 or 825-5854. Six attended the National Explorers Conference at Oxford Church Aug. 8 and 9. Shown, front row, are Rita Latham and Hazel Shedd; back row, Karen Haynes, MaryAnne Dale, Bonnie Spencer, and Pam Hunt.



Youth from **FLOWOOD CHURCH, FLOWOOD**, participated in MissionFuge at North Greenville University, Tigerville, S.C.



**FLOWOOD CHURCH, FLOWOOD**, had a recognition service for their GA's and RA's followed by an ice cream social.



The youth of **CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO**, recently attended The Casting Crowns Concert at First Church, Jackson. Jason and Jenny Leggett, youth ministers; Hal Hatten, pastor.



**RED CREEK UNION CHURCH, VESTRY**, licensed youth pastor Paul Seoane to the gospel ministry. Shown are Kaley Seoane, Seoane, and pastor Jamie Chapman.



**BRANCH CHURCH, SCOTT COUNTY ASSOCIATION**, held a special service in May to honor its graduates. Shown are Larry Druery, Casey Torrence, and Clay Bates.



## Just for the Record



Eighteen members of **IMMANUEL CHURCH, GREENWOOD**, participated in Eight Days of Hope, Tupelo.

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SEPTEMBER 8, 2014

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Lunch will be provided to attendees by your Mississippi Baptist Foundation. Must register by August 25th.

Dr. Wayne VanHorn has served as

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## Vacation Bible School



**PLEASANT RIDGE CHURCH, DUMAS:** June 16 – 20; enrollment, 56 children and 40 adults; Thomas Magers II, pastor.



**FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA:** June 18 – 20.



**FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, STARKVILLE**



**CALVARY CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO:** youth VBS. Jason and Jennie Leggett, youth ministers; Hal Hatten, pastor.

# First Person: Take responsibility for decreasing your diabetes risk

## FOURTH IN A SERIES

By Whitney Raju  
Correspondent

Diabetes is a health issue for many Mississippians. There are two types of diabetes.

Type I is usually found in children whose bodies do not have the ability to produce insulin. Type II is adult onset and associated with age and weight. The heavier you are the more likely you are to develop diabetes, but diet and lack of exercise also are contributing factors.

Unfortunately, today we are beginning to see the incidence of Type II diabetes increasing in children. There is a direct correlation between children who are extremely overweight or obese and early onset of Type II diabetes.

Your blood sugar level is a number you need to know. A fasting plasma glucose test can determine your predisposition to diabetes. The symptoms of diabetes include increased thirst, frequent urination, non-specific fatigue, blurred vision, and, in some cases, increased hunger.

Type II diabetes can be managed by diet and exercise. The longer you can have control and go without medications, the better. However, there are also pills

that can be taken for diabetes management. Your goal should be to keep diabetes under control with diet and exercise as long as you can.

Newly diagnosed diabetics should have a discussion with a dietitian. Diet is key to diabetes management and a dietitian can help you understand portion control, the amount and types of fruits and vegetables to eat each day, and appropriate cooking methods.

Body Mass Index (BMI) is a formula used to determine ideal body weight. There are several web calculators you can use, including one on the Baptist Health Systems website (mbhs.org). The formula looks at your height and weight and determines your BMI. A number of less than 25 is where you want to be.

Another measure of your ideal weight is waist circumference. Take a regular sewing tape measure and measure the largest part of your waist. In most cases, women want that number to be less than 35, and men less than 40. If your numbers are higher than these you could be carrying excess body weight which can be detrimental to your health.

Individuals with diabetes need to have good control of their blood sugar. Having diabetes increases your risk for many other health concerns like heart disease. For women who are diabetics, being pregnant is cause of concern. These women need to have not just good control, but great control of their diabetes for the healthiest baby possible.

There is also a condition which can occur during pregnancy called gestational diabetes. This type of diabetes is usually controlled by diet and possibly medication, and can disappear after delivery. However, it is a condition to be seriously monitored in future pregnancies.

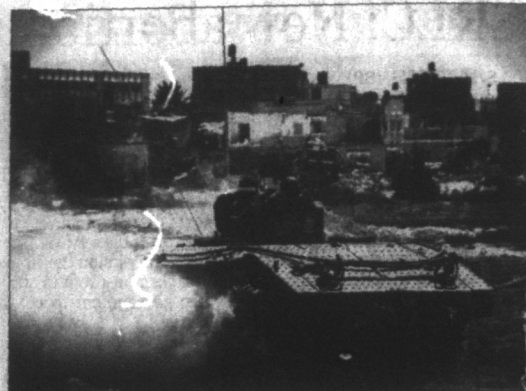
Diabetes can also cause damage to nerves, particularly in the feet. This damage can lead to a loss of sensation or the inability to feel pain in the feet. It is important that diabetics check their feet daily and attend to any issues promptly.

Several words come up in every session of our HealthWorks video series. These are *personal responsibility, self-discipline, and personal accountability*. All of these actions are particularly important to the diabetic because it is going to take self-discipline and accountability to manage your diabetes effectively.

I hope you enjoy the HealthWorks DVD series. I believe when you understand having good health really works for you and your entire family and you begin to take responsibility for your health, you will see good results begin to happen.

This series is informative, entertaining, and wrapped in a Bible study format that just may inspire you to get started. Learn more about this series and place an order at HealthWorksDVD.com.

Raju is a physician specializing in internal medicine at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson.



**DECISIVE ACTION** — As rocket attacks from Palestinians in Gaza continue to rain down, Israeli Defense Forces enter the area as part of its Operation Protective Edge. While the conflict between Israel and Hamas now enters its seventh week, Christians from both sides call for prayer. (BP photo used by permission of Israeli Defense Forces)

## 'Season of weeping' marks continuing Gaza-Israel conflict

**JERUSALEM (BP)** — In war-torn Gaza and Israel, Christians watch with anguish as violence ravages the innocent on both sides of the conflict.

However, this "season of weeping and mourning" is "not void of hope," said Yohanna Katanacho, academic dean of Bethlehem Bible College and an on-call pastor of Nazareth Baptist Church.

"Our tears are the bridge between brutality and humanity," said Katanacho, who describes himself as an Arab Christian living in Israel. "Pray with tears" in regard to the Gaza-Israel conflict, he challenges believers.

The latest clashes between Israel and Hamas in the past six weeks have seen more than 2,000 killed and 10,000 injured. As deadly attacks continue, Christians from both sides of the conflict continue to pray for peace that some would contend can only be supernatural, and peace that the Bible says is beyond understanding.

"We feel strongly that our position is to enlist prayer for all the people on all sides of the conflict," said Dale Thorne, director of the Jerusalem Prayer Center. The center, an entity of Southern Baptists, is a five-minute walk from the ancient walled city of Jerusalem.

"The real question for us is how are we to pray in this quagmire of pain, fear, destruction and confusion," Thorne said. "We can only depend on God's Word. There is no other source."

Prayer is invaluable in times like these, he said. "When we replace worry with prayer and anxiety with thankfulness, we experience God's peace, which will control our emotions and

thoughts and keep us centered in Jesus the Messiah."

One leader of the Baptist church in Gaza said, "We have peace in our hearts."

For people like Faten (not his real name), that peace is vital. A Baptist who attends the Bethlehem Bible College extension in Gaza, he is grieving the deaths of two students who attended the school where her sister works. The students were hit by Israeli rocket fire while playing on the roof of their apartment building.

When Katanacho, the academic dean of Bethlehem Bible College, learned that rockets were striking close to the building where Faten lives, he phoned her asking if there was an area where she could seek refuge.

"She chuckled and said that the only refuge she has is God and He is enough for her," Katanacho said. He expressed amazement at her trust in God's care. "She wholeheartedly believes that her life is in God's hands. God is her refuge in Gaza. God called her to serve Him in this difficult place, and she will honor her Lord."

Hanna Massad, former pastor of Gaza Baptist Church now living in Jordan, said, "It's a truly desperate situation...many lives will never be the same again."

Massad told how Jalila Ayyad, a Christian woman in Gaza, lost her life in an Israeli bombing that left her son critically injured. "This is just one of so many tragedies that happen in Gaza on a daily basis. In the midst of this fear and devastation, people work together and do what they can to help."

## MS Baptist churches celebrating significant anniversaries this year

**CLINTON, Ms. (Special)** — The Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission (MBHC) has announced that a total of 44 churches representing 6,275 years of Kingdom work will reach significant milestones in 2015, and those churches are urged to celebrate those anniversaries, according to MBHC Executive Director Anthony Kay.

A significant anniversary is defined by the commission as 200 years, 175 years, 150 years, 125 years, and 100 years. Each church that informs MBHC of their significant anniversary celebration will receive a framed certificate and letter of commendation.

The commission requests any church celebrating a significant anniversary that is not included in the following list should contact MBHC at P.O. Box 4024, Clinton, MS 39058. Telephone: (601) 925-3434. E-mail: mbhc@mc.edu.

Churches known to be reaching significant anniversaries, followed by Baptist association affiliation, include:

### 200 Years

Fair River (Lincoln)  
Fellowship (Union)  
Mars Hill (Mississippi)  
Union (Walshall)

### 175 Years

Antioch (Jasper)  
Bethesda (Golden Triangle)  
Blackwater (Kemper)  
Canaan (Benton-Tippah)  
Concord (Calhoun)  
Hardy (North Central)  
Hernando (X-Tended Mission)  
Hillsboro (Scott)  
Liberty (Carroll)  
Liberty (Rankin)  
Ogden (Yazoo)  
Sallis (Attala)  
Wake Forest (Golden Triangle)

### 150 Years

Big Creek (Wayne)  
FBC, Charleston (North Central)  
Hickory (Newton)  
Milligan Springs (Montgomery)  
Pine Grove (Pearl River)

### 125 Years

Belle Fountain (Jackson)  
Bethany (Itawamba)  
Bluff Springs (Pike)  
County Line (Wayne)  
East Moss Point (Jackson)  
FBC, Eupora (Webster)  
FBC, Maben (Golden Triangle)  
Glenfield (Union County)  
Highland (Lauderdale)  
Lake Como (Jasper)  
Mt. Manna  
(X-Tended Mission)  
Mt. Vernon (Lauderdale)  
Pine Grove (Jones)  
Providence (Attala)

### 100 Years

Beat Line (Neshoba)  
Centerville (Jones)  
Dry Creek (Simpson)  
Furrs (Pontotoc)  
Holcomb (North Central)  
Rolling Creek (Clarke)  
Union Ridge (Winston)



# ERLC: New abortion mandate rules are no improvement

**WASHINGTON (BP)** — The Obama administration's latest version of the rules regarding its abortion/contraception mandate has found no admirers among religious freedom advocates.

Southern Baptists and other foes of the mandate and its failure to protect the conscience rights of employers either strongly criticized the revision by the administration or largely reserved judgment on it after it was announced Aug. 22.

The revision is the eighth since the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) first issued in August 2011 regulations requiring employers to provide for their workers not only contraceptives but drugs and devices that can potentially cause abortions.

The latest regulations provide a new option for notification by non-profit religious organizations that object to the mandate. A non-profit may notify HHS in writing of its

religious objection to providing coverage of all contraceptives or those that are potentially abortion-causing. In response, the federal government will notify the insurer or a third-party administrator it is responsible for providing employees of the non-profit with payments to cover the services.

The new version no longer requires the non-profit to authorize the government to contact its insurer.

The HHS revision fails miserably, according to the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC).

"What we see here is another revised attempt to settle issues of religious conscience with accounting maneuvers," ERLC President Russell D. Moore said in a written statement. "This new policy doesn't get at the primary problem. The administration is setting itself up as a mediator be-



DUKE

WALKER

tween God and the conscience on the question of the taking of innocent human life."

In an analysis, the ERLC said the administration "still falls short of understanding the concerns surrounding religious liberty."

"The government has resorted to shuffling paperwork, not ceasing its conscience-paving ways," analysis coauthors Barrett Duke and Andrew Walker wrote. Duke is the ERLC's vice president for public policy and

research. Walker is the entity's director of policy studies.

"Essentially, the administration has set itself up as the grand inquisitor, determining who is religious enough to merit the government's benevolence and who is not," Duke and Walker said in the analysis. "The rule reveals the administration remains committed to advancing sexual liberty over First Amendment protected religious liberty."

Others who have called for conscience protections for employers also expressed dissatisfaction with the latest rules:

■ U.S. Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ), co-chairman of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, called the revision "a direct, obnoxious, unprecedented government attack" on conscience rights.

"Rather than protecting the religious freedom and deeply held beliefs of nuns, monks, Christian

colleges and charities, today's announcement just establishes another bogus procedure designed to force people of faith to violate their religious beliefs..." Smith said.

■ Arina Grossu, director for the Center for Human Dignity at the Family Research Council, said the revision "is simply another clerical layer to an already existing accounting gimmick that does nothing to protect religious freedom because the employer still remains the legal gateway by which these drugs and services will be provided to their employees."

■ Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), said after an initial review the conference is disappointed "the regulations would not broaden the 'religious employer' exemption to encompass all employers with sincerely held religious objections to the mandate."

## MS POSITIONS

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**MEADOWVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, STARKVILLE, MS, IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC AND EDUCATION.** Please mail resumes to Meadowview Baptist Church, Attn: Music Search Committee, 300 Linden Circle, Starkville, MS 39759.

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## MIXUP

cont. from p. 1

companions Dan and Sherrie Walker when the incident occurred. Dan Walker is director of missions for the Salt Lake Association.

When Jan Harding took a sip of tea, she immediately bent over and spat out the liquid as she choked, gagged, and coughed. "I think I just drank acid," she managed to gasp to her husband.

Jim Harding quickly rushed his wife to a nearby hospital, where the decision was made to transport her across town by helicopter to a medical center with a burn unit.

"I'm just grateful for each day," Jim Harding said. "I'm grateful she's getting better. I'm grateful she has a voice. I'm grateful the 'life-and-death' thing has been taken off the table. I'm just grateful for where we are."

## NIGERIA

cont. from p. 1

mother [is] among the women that are burying the bodies confirmed," the colleague reported to Ojutiku. "The insurgents took over the Emir's (mayor's) Palace as well as a Government Lodge in Gwoza, and have appointed a replacement for the town's fleeing Emir. They have hoisted their black flags with Arabic insignia all over Gwoza in a show of their total control of the territory."

As Boko Haram blocked exit roads from Gwoza and went door to door killing people, Ojutiku said, Nigerian military officials abandoned their weapons and fled, leaving Boko Haram unchallenged.

"Now these weapons have fallen into the hands of the Boko

Haram," Ojutiku said. "A few people were able to escape to the mountainside, just exactly like is happening in northern Iraq. A few people are holding out on the mountains, but most of the people in the village are being slaughtered. There is no communication between Gwoza and other parts of the country."

"I was told many Nigerian soldiers refused to go and confront Boko Haram, because their wives protested. They felt they were just sending their husbands to an untimely death."

New reports corroborated Ojutiku's account. According to AFP, about 300 women and 500 children protested for two days at the gates of a military base in Maiduguri, demanding that their husbands and fathers not be sent to recapture Gwoza, as they did not have proper weapons.

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## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530, FAX: (601) 282-3330. E-mail: [baptistrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcb.org).

# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director  
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## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

### APRIL 2014 MEMORIALS

Charles Mercer Sr.  
Johnny & Wanda Bourn  
Mamie Ray Miller  
Mrs. Lillian H. Miller  
Mr. Tommy Miller  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Oakman  
Frank Montgomery  
Carrollton BC  
Charles Morgan  
Mrs. Charlotte Vickers & Family  
Opal Gregory Morgan  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Cryder  
Imogene Murphy  
Mr. & Mrs. Robin D. Nichols  
Mrs. Maurine Neel  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan  
Mrs. Linda Lane Nelson  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Wigington  
Alvin Newell  
Mrs. Tena Haskins  
Ed Nunnery  
Mr. & Mrs. Glen D. Fortenberry  
Dr. Jack Nunnery  
Mrs. Linda K. Campbell  
Mrs. Mauldine Oswalt  
Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Morgan  
J. V. & Mary Katherine Parker  
Michael & Betty Parker  
Jim Patterson  
Mr. Charlie Ben Mitchell  
Judy Peavey  
Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Maggio, Jr.  
Vondeen Pruitt  
Mr. & Mrs. James H. Chase  
Van Dyke (Doc) Quick  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry D. Glass  
Robert & Diane Bradford  
Mrs. Sybil B. Lee  
Mrs. Marilyn M. Ragan  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Dean  
Mr. Charles W. Holmes  
Mrs. Elaine Randall

Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan  
Mr. Hubert T. Ratliff Jr.  
Dr. & Mrs. James H. Brewer  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark V. Dyslin  
Mr. & Mrs. Rodger D. Ratliff  
The Schumacher Family  
Ms. Nancy J. Lewis  
Mrs. Margaret Lanford Rice  
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil E. Williams  
Ms. Louise Gee  
Billy & Toni Carol Hardin  
Ms. Glenda Tedford Pittman  
Mrs. Paul (Pat) Rimes  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene D. Saucier  
Marjorie Rinehart  
Mr. Charles W. Holmes  
Mrs. Frances (Tip) Rosamond  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Ken Scott  
Pleasant Hill BC  
Mr. Gene Craig Sills  
Jerusalem BC  
Robert & Patricia Hudgins  
Mrs. Mary Simmons  
Rev. & Mrs. William B. Webb  
Mrs. Dorothy Sisney  
Jerusalem BC  
Robert & Patricia Hudgins  
Annie Bell Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Sisco  
Mr. Leo C. Smith Jr.  
Sonny & Betty Ann Williamson  
Roger Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Maggio  
Mrs. Maxie Sonnier  
Mr. & Mrs. Brooks H. Polk, Jr.  
Frances Stanley  
Dr. Gwen P. Aldridge  
Mr. Aaron Steed  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew  
Ms. Artie Straughn  
Phillip BC  
Mrs. Kim Stribling  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Oakman  
Elery Sullivan  
Mrs. Joyce C. Allen  
Dorothy Sykes

Ms. Mildred E. Chapman  
Mrs. Jewel Scott Tagueant  
Juniper Grove BC  
Bobby Taylor  
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T. Kendrick  
Mrs. Don (Mildred) Taylor  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene D. Saucier  
Mr. Robert Taylor  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur D. Burnett  
Junior Tew  
Dept of Banking & Consumer Finance  
Mrs. Pauline Thornton  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan  
Mr. Eddie Tindall  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan  
Ella Jo Tircuit  
Billy & Ethel Whitten  
Mr. Bubba Tollison  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Dean  
Mrs. Janice Townsend  
Mr. & Mrs. C. R. Case  
Mrs. Celeste Cade Truitt  
David & Ann Russell  
Johnny & Carolyn Floyd  
Caralyn Floyd  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Mr. & Mrs. Quinby Morgan  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Buford  
Mrs. Betty J. Jordan  
Mr. & Mrs. David May

Frank Turner  
Bruce, Cathy & Rebecca Shofner  
Jason, Susanne, Lauren & Hunter Blalock  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Coe  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Turner  
Mr. Lairy M. Brown  
Ms. Priscilla Vezzey  
Richard Utz  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank O. Crosthwait, Jr.  
Curtis Vaughn  
Mr. & Mrs. Seals Crocker  
Mother of Susan Venier  
Mrs. Glenda C. Fry  
Hellen Beall Walker  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth B. Walker  
Roger Walker  
Mr. & Mrs. Barry J. Corley  
Pettis D. (Sonny) Walley  
Jimmie S. Edwards  
Johnny & Wanda Bourn  
Mrs. Lynn Robinson  
Mr. & Mrs. E. A. Hill  
Mrs. Merle Williams  
Marcus & June Stennett  
Mrs. Jeanelle Webb  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Smothers  
Carolyn West  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne R. Hall  
Mr. Ricky Wilbanks  
Mr. & Mrs. Wade L. Allen  
W. J. Wilkinson  
M. E. "Sonny" & Margaret Newton  
Virginia Frances Williams  
Ms. Michal Williams  
Thomas Lee Wilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Hembree Brandon  
Rodney Wisby  
Juniper Grove BC  
Richard Woodward  
Mr. & Mrs. Randy B. Eaves  
Betty Wright  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Palmer  
Mrs. Frances Zumbro  
Eddieyton BC

### MAY 2014 HONORS

June Addikson  
Larry Addikson  
Lamar & Janice Baker  
Mr. Nathan A. Baker  
Sue Bryant  
Rev. David Bryant  
Verna Bryant  
Rev. David Bryant

Mrs. Courtney Campbell  
Turkey Creek BC  
Mrs. Virginia Chase  
Mrs. Lee F. Barron  
Hunter Cobb  
Ms. Carol C. Smith  
Patricia Duckworth  
Mrs. Diane Long  
Mrs. Grace Pinnix French  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Pinnix  
Theresa Fulton  
Gary & Sue Fulton  
Mr. Donald Griffin  
Jerusalem BC  
Mrs. Nelma Hall  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Pinnix  
Willie Frances Jones  
Glynn Jones  
Patsy May  
Ms. Ernestine F. May  
Jennifer McNair  
Ms. Carol C. Smith  
Mrs. Jean Griffith Mixon  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Buchanan  
Mrs. Florence Newman  
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Porter  
Mrs. Searcy Pinnix  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Pinnix

Mrs. Donna W. Stokes  
Ms. Doris Ward  
Edwin Sullivan  
Ms. Carol C. Smith  
Mrs. Inez Tutor  
Turkey Creek BC  
Ms. Betty L. Ward  
Ms. Doris Ward  
Ms. Vicki A. Ward  
Ms. Doris Ward  
Mrs. Bessie White  
Turkey Creek BC  
Mrs. Dot Willoughby  
Mrs. E. J. Grisham, Sr.  
Amanda Woodrick  
Ms. Carol C. Smith

### MAY 2014 MEMORIALS

Mr. & Mrs. William E. Abel Sr.  
Mrs. Lois A. Saunders  
Nancy Wilcox Allgood  
Mr. & Mrs. C. Gene Cryder  
Gordon B. Annis  
Mr. Andy Oakes

Carey E. Ashcraft  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Coward  
Coy Ashe Sr.  
Daniel, Dianne & Alissa Smith  
James C. Barnes  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Hawkins  
Barbara Perkins Bell  
Jimmie & Rickey Palmer  
Betty Berry  
Daniel, Dianne & Alissa Smith  
Lena Mae Berry  
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Powell  
Mr. & Mrs. Shirley D. Bohannon  
Mrs. Beulah Abel  
Beth B. Bounds  
Ms. Judy H. Lacy  
Mrs. Reba Boykin  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Bruton  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Domino  
Steven Bridges  
Whitesand BC  
Mr. Gene Brister  
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Gore, III  
Mrs. Margaret M. Davis  
Jahazel Buckley  
Mr. Ted Buckley  
Jon Bunch  
Mr. & Mrs. Lanny Lancaster

## BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### Immediate Opening for Social Services Secretary (Ridgeland, MS)

The BCV has an immediate opening for an individual to fill the position of Social Services Secretary in the agency's headquarters in Ridgeland. The individual filling this position must be a mature Christian adult with personal integrity, Christian character and a sound reputation. This individual must also have a demonstrated commitment to the ethical standards incumbent upon each staff member of the BCV staff and an appreciation of the confidentiality extended to children and families served by the BCV. This individual must be able to deal with children and adults in a warm, accepting manner. The successful candidate must have a minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent, and training and experience in general secretarial tasks and be proficient in general office computing tasks, specifically word processing, spreadsheet applications and data entry in various applications. Other significant responsibilities include phone coverage, extensive filing and significant interactions with members of the social service and clinical staff.

To be considered for this position, you will need to complete the full employment application which includes a statement of faith and submit it along with a copy of your resume to Kristen Slaven, Director of Social Services at kslaven@baptistchildrensvillage.com or 114 Marketridge Drive, Ridgeland, MS 39157.

## BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### Immediate Openings for Case Managers (Statewide)

The BCV has immediate openings for individuals to fill the position of Case Manager on several of its campuses across the state. The individuals filling these positions must be mature, Christian adults, with personal integrity, Christian character and sound reputation. These individuals must have a demonstrated commitment to the ethical standards incumbent upon each staff member of the BCV staff and an appreciation of the confidentiality extended to children and families served by the BCV. Successful candidates for this position must have a demonstrated ability to cultivate adaptive relationships with both children and adults. These individuals must also have the ability to effectively communicate, through both written and spoken language, exhibit sound clinical judgment, tact and assertiveness, and be able to work effectively with residents, their families, referral sources and BCV staff. As this position requires a great deal of direct contact with residents and their families, successful candidates for this position must have a relatively flexible schedule and be able to work at those times when the residents are on campus or when their families may be available.

Individuals seeking this position must have a master's degree in a social or behavioral science field. An individual with a bachelor's degree in a social or behavioral science field and extensive case management experience in the field of residential or mental health care may be considered.

To be considered for this position, you will need to complete the full employment application which includes a statement of faith and submit it along with a copy of your resume to Dr. Randy Cotton, Director of Programs and Clinical Services at rcotton@baptistchildrensvillage.com or 114 Marketridge Drive, Ridgeland, MS 39157.



## Radical Faith: Be Ready for Tribulation • Daniel 9:20-27; 12:9-13

Many people today long for the past. This probably is just a human condition. I am sure that people in the 1880s longed for the 1850s. Surely people in the 1740s talked about the good old days in the early 1700s. Even in the dark ages in Europe from 400 to 1,500 AD I'm sure many said, "Things were so much better in my day. I don't like all these changes going on today. Scrolls worked fine. Why do we need these new books?" Maybe some said, "I liked telling time from my sundial. This clock fad will never last."

I wonder if in the New Testament times there were shops where you could buy old lanterns, ancient scrolls or old furniture from decades before. Were there antique shops in the early American colonies? Maybe some preferred the old European continent type furniture to that newfangled Queen Ann style. Or perhaps some liked hanging on their walls old maps without the new world. Certainly when somebody invented the Piano, many didn't like that new instrument. "Why would anyone ever want to play more than one note at a time?"

Maybe when the early church sang hymns, somebody said, "Let's sing some of the older songs that were written twenty

years ago when the church was founded. If those songs were good enough for Paul and Timothy, they are good enough for us today."

In my youngest memory, old people talked about how it was better in their day, calling them the good ole days. Many today post on Facebook how great it was in the 1950's and 60's. Maybe it was good, if you were Caucasian.

African Americans lived a second-class existence back then and that wasn't right. Many died then

from illnesses we easily treat today. I remember reading in the paper every summer that some elderly people would die from what was then called heat stroke. You actually want to go back to the time when we didn't have air-conditioning? New tires purchased in the 1970's would last about 10,000 miles and now they last four times that. I also remember when a

car that had 50,000 miles on it was late for the junk yard.

Looking back for many is an escape for not looking forward or facing the trials of the present. I once saw a church marquee sign that read, "Use the past as a guidepost, not a hitching post." Hebrews 13:8 reads, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and today and forever," (KJV).

Daniel saw a terrifying vision of the days to come. He saw tribulation and destruction everywhere. Daniel

11:31 reveals about one king to come, "Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate," (KJV). The angel revealed to Daniel that in the end days some would turn to the Lord and many would turn away. Daniel 12:1 reads, "There shall

be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book," (KJV).

The visions that Daniel saw revealed that the days ahead would be terrifying. Though the Temple would be rebuilt, it would again be destroyed. Yet it would also be a time of service to The Lord. Daniel 12:3 reads, "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever," (KJV).

Part of the Lord's message to Daniel was that he could trust in God, no matter what would happen. God is the Lord of right now as well as the past and future. We need not look backwards to find comfort. We can rest in God's mighty strength right now. We may learn from the past but we must live in the present, even if we see a frightening future. Remember that today will be the yesterday of your tomorrow, so make it a good one by trusting Jesus today.

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon.

## Our Work with Creation • Leviticus 25:1-7

Earth Day, Go Green, climate control, global warming, and recycling are just some of the phrases and terminology used in today's society regarding taking care of the environment. We are encouraged to join the movement to help save planet earth. There are individuals and groups who worship nature. Others see the earth as something we are to dominate, thereby using whatever natural resources for their sole benefit. What is a Christian's responsibility? John Wesley wrote, "When the possessor of Heaven and earth brought you into being and placed you in this world, He placed you here not as owner but as a steward." Therefore, as a Christian we are to look to Scripture, not to man, regarding our responsibilities for taking care of the land.

At the beginning of this quarter we studied *Beyond Belief-Does What I Believe about God Change Anything?* Then Resilient Faith: Standing Strong in the Midst of Suffering. Our final section, And It Was Good, builds upon all of those lessons. For our actions will reflect what we believe. Faith is focused on trusting Christ, walking in obedience, and believing in the sufficiency of the Scriptures. Leviticus 25:1-7 shows how God implemented a plan for the earth to be maintained. If His directions are followed we

will see the earth replenished, there will be an increase in productivity and we will be blessed.

Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made" (Gen. 2:3 NASB). God did not grow tired from His work. Instead God set a model—a Sabbath rest—for man to follow. The Sabbath rest principle discussed in Leviticus

25 is known as the "land Sabbath" and applies directly to the seventh year.

"The Jewish festival system is readily arranged into groups of seven... For example, the people rest on the seventh day (the Sabbath). Pentecost, when harvesters rest, comes during the seventh week (after Passover). The nation rests during the seventh month at the Feast of Trumpets. The Year of Jubilee, when everything rests, comes following the seventh year (49 years). Rest for God's creation systematically comes on the seventh day,

week, month, year, and even the seventh year of years" (Women's Evangelical Commentary, Old Testament, by Patterson & Kelly ©2011). God's directions are simple and to the point.

First, God is the owner and we are to be wise stewards (Lev. 25:1-3). The Lord spoke to Moses, "the land which I shall give you." The Psalmist declared, "The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, the

world, and those who dwell in it (Psalm 24:1 NASB).

Secondly, we are to trust God and acknowledge everything comes from

Him (Lev. 25:4-5). We are told to give the land a rest from active agricultural production every seventh year. This was "a Sabbath to the Lord... the land shall have a sabbatical year." It is here we need to ask ourselves a very important question: Is this command valid for today? If you are engaged in farming you may answer in the negative because there are so many expenses. Many farmers give the land a rest

by rotating crops and leaving certain fields unplanted. It would behoove the student to study more about the "land Sabbath" and then answer the question. One final thought, when we observe the "land Sabbath", both in the seventh year and in the fiftieth year, there is a promise for our obedience. It is found in Leviticus 25:18-21, "Then the land will yield its produce, so that you can eat your fill and live securely on it... then I will so order My blessing for you in the sixth year that it will bring forth the crop for three years."

The last principle: we are to use the earth and what God has given us to benefit others. Notice in verses Lev. 25:6-7, the people who were to benefit from the "land Sabbath": "All of you shall have food; yourself, and your male and female slaves, and your hired man and your foreign resident, those who live as aliens with you, even the cattle and the animals." Yes, we are to be wise stewards of the earth, thereby giving a testimony and bringing glory to our gracious Heavenly Father.

God is good all the time and all the time God is good. As we end this quarter join me in singing, "God is so good... He's so good to me" (Traditional). Blessings.

Leathers is a member of First Church, Madison.

### Bible Studies for Life

with Laura Leathers



## HUNGER

cont. from p. 1

churches add a global hunger emphasis to their fall festival or Trunk or Treat events. IMB's free world hunger brochure also is available at [imbresources.org](http://imbresources.org).

■ The BGR website hosts a dedicated GHR page at [gobgr.org/hunger](http://gobgr.org/hunger). Visitors will find tabs for news updates and prayer points, as well as re-

sources. BGR offers brief video updates about how hunger funds have changed lives, as well as practical program ideas that run the gamut from a progressive hunger meal to a Run for Their Lives 5K race.

■ Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), at [wmustore.com](http://wmustore.com), headlines their anti-hunger campaign with the fall issue of Missions Leader, which includes a two-page feature with basic information, ideas, and activi-

ties to help churches promote a World Hunger Sunday offering.

WMU's World Hunger 101, a two-hour, church-wide event, explains how to consolidate a full understanding of hunger-related issues and offers age-level session plans with promotion and hunger project ideas. Teaching Preschoolers About Hunger is an interactive four-week study that will help preschoolers learn to reach out to hungry people.

The WMU store also offers the popular bread banks which visually illustrate GHR's "Bread for life" tag line and a World Hunger badge children can earn in missions education groups. Both products bear the World Hunger Fund logo and will implement the GHR brand in 2015.

GHR follows the unique "dollar in, dollar out" path blazed by its predecessor, the

World Hunger Fund. Southern Baptists are able to direct 100% of each donation to hunger causes because church gifts through the Cooperative Program provide the administrative and implementing infrastructure for hunger relief projects.

The national GHR partners are the ERLC, NAMB, IMB, BGR, WMU, LifeWay Christian Resources, and SBC Executive Committee.

## Just for the Record



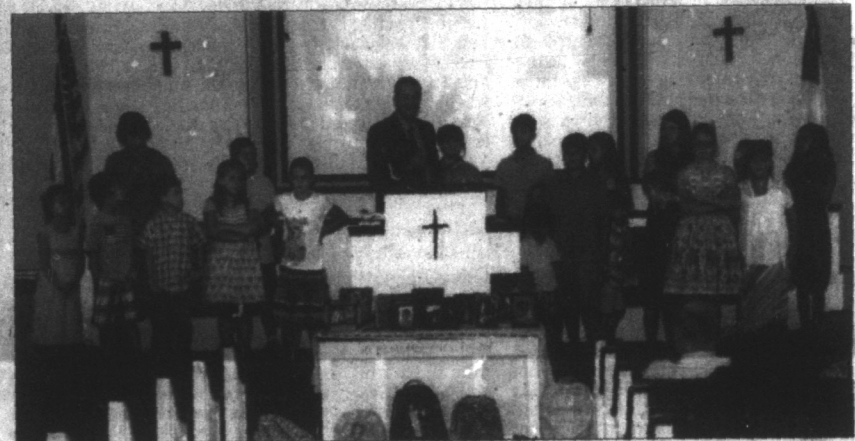
**HEBRON CHURCH, MERIDIAN**, ordained Robert Earl Hughes as deacon Aug. 10. Shown are deacon chairman Mark McDonald, Hughes, and pastor Richard Wallace.



The **CAMPERS ON MISSION** held their state rally at Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko. Don Gann and Dean Stewart, speakers.



**JOURNEY CHURCH, OLIVE BRANCH**, held an open house/building dedication Aug. 10. The building of four units had remained empty for a number of years and Magnolia Properties, the owner, worked with Journey to allow this space to be used for ministry. Shown are Olive Branch Mayor Phillips, pastor Jarrett Jamieson, associate pastor/youth minister Michael Cooper, and worship leader Andrew Ginn.



**HARMONY CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN**, held a special Backpack of Prayers service for students Aug. 10. Owen King had a special message for students and parents.



**MONTGOMERY CHURCH, LINCOLN COUNTY**, ordained Charlie McCarty as deacon Aug. 10. Shown are pastor Larry Russell, McCarty, and deacon chairman Eugene Moak.



**RED CREEK UNION CHURCH, VESTRY**, honored associate pastor Elijah Davis and youth pastor Paul Seoane in honor of their first year of service. Shown are Kaley Seoane, Seoane, pastor Jamie Chapman, Davis, Kristen Davis, and Lochlyn Davis.



Fran Wiltshire helps serve the 75th anniversary cake during an observance at **PROVIDENCE CHURCH, CARROLLTON**, Aug. 10. Her husband Donnie is a member of one of the founding families of the church and served as moderator for the day.



**GREEN'S CREEK CHURCH, PETAL**, celebrated the 20th anniversary of Michael Routon's ministry July 13 with a reception. He is shown with his wife, Pat.